

Let God Be God  
The Goodness of God  
Job 35-37

One of the great lessons of the book of Job is that the omnipotent God of the universe is also the Lord of our suffering. When we hurt, we may not sense His presence. We may not feel that He is listening or answering our prayers, but He is present even in our pain. The problem is that we tend to think of God as a superhuman form of ourselves, and we try to impose on Him our righteousness, our compassion, and our desire to help others as if we can do God's job and we can do it better. After all, we think if we were God, there would be no suffering.

1. God's goodness is seen in His \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
2. God's goodness is seen in His \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
3. God's goodness is seen in His \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

Throughout the Bible we see that the only people who receive anything from God are those with a humble and contrite heart. If we think we have something to offer God, if we think He needs our achievements or our worthless-as-rags righteousness, then our God is too small. He is not God enough. We haven't learned to recognize His majesty and glory. If we come to God in our own self-sufficiency, proud of the "good life" we have lived, then we have cut ourselves off from the true knowledge of God. We fail miserably when we substitute the mediocrity of what we would call a good life for the far superior glory of a perfect life lived on our behalf by our Savior, Jesus. We come to Him empty-handed, humble, broken, teachable, and sorrowful for our sins that separate us from God, then God will lift us by His power and grace and restore us to citizenship and service in His kingdom.

#### Reflection

The story of Job seems to highlight Elihu's youth compared to that of the others. What wisdom did you acquire as a young person? What wisdom have you acquired as an adult? Do you believe wisdom can only come with age? Job has felt as if God randomly was punishing him. Have you ever felt like God was punishing you? How might God have been using that suffering to prevent sin, or for some other reason, rather than punishing you for it? Elihu talked about the unknowable nature of God. What are some of the things that help you see God's greatness? How does that affect the way you live out your faith?